

full as President Obama outlined his priorities to solve the challenges that face America. And no matter the issue, I think it is so important that we remember that the best solutions come from Main Street, and not from Pennsylvania Avenue.

The biggest challenge that our Nation faces is the economy. Growing and expanding our economy starts with true tax relief that allows middle-class families and small businesses to keep more of their hard-earned money. It also involves investing in infrastructure and workforce so that we will be competitive.

Today we are scheduled to begin debate on the budget bill. Unfortunately, this bill is loaded with earmarks, over 9,000. One business owner in Spokane recently asked me, "Do you in Washington, D.C. get it? Do you understand that small businesses, families, are having to tighten their belt, make tough decisions?"

We heard the call last night to start living within our means, and I applaud President Obama's commitment to reducing our national debt, just like families and small businesses have to do with their budgets. Now is the time for both parties to back up their promises for fiscal discipline.

I believe that the best solutions come when Republicans and Democrats work together. I look forward to working with Republicans and Democrats to solve these issues.

PUTTING NATIONAL SECURITY IN PERIL FOR POLITICAL EXPEDENCY

(Mr. HUNTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, since Mr. Obama became the President, the economy has been his focus. But through executive orders and not so subtle hints in recent speeches, his administration has put some effort into making America less safe than it was 2 years ago.

Some examples: Throwing out the case against the USS *Cole* bomber; the closing down of Guantanamo; limiting our interrogation techniques; cutting defense spending; and announcing a troop surge in Afghanistan without the proper infrastructure or funding to support it.

The French just today released five terrorists that the United States released to them for prosecution. If even one of the brave men and women who carry the burden of our security on their shoulders in Iraq and Afghanistan are harmed by the fact that American operatives can no longer get timely information from the enemy through interrogation or are attacked by a prisoner released because of the closing of Guantanamo, if even one of our men and women in uniform pay the ultimate price for these reasons, it will be a sacrifice made so that President

Obama can score political points with the liberal fringe of his party.

I am a United States Marine and I served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I will not stand by while our national security is put in peril for political expediency. Let us not betray those who sacrifice for our freedom.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 47) supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 47

Whereas there are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States;

Whereas law enforcement officers selflessly protect the people of the United States and communities throughout the country from harm;

Whereas law enforcement officers serve the country regardless of the peril to themselves;

Whereas more than 18,340 law enforcement officers have been killed in the line of duty since the first recorded police death in 1792;

Whereas September 11, 2001, was the deadliest day in law enforcement history with 72 officers killed while responding to the terrorist attacks;

Whereas 140 law enforcement officers were killed in 2008;

Whereas Public Law 87-726 designates May 15th of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and Police Week is commemorated during the calendar week containing May 15;

Whereas section 7(m) of title 4, United States Code, requires that the United States flag on all government buildings be displayed at half-staff on May 15, Peace Officers Memorial Day; and

Whereas law enforcement officers deserve the gratitude of the people of the United States for their service: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor Federal, State, and local peace officers killed or disabled in the line of duty; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, I am pleased to join my colleagues and stand in full support of the consideration of House Resolution 47, which calls for Congress to recognize the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day, which is commemorated on May 15th of each year during what is referred to as National Police Week. House Resolution 47 was introduced by our colleague Representative TED POE of Texas on January 9, 2009, and was considered by and reported from the Oversight Committee on February 11th, 2009, by a voice vote.

The measure has the support and co-sponsorship of nearly 70 Members of Congress and is designed to acknowledge the work and commitment of more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving throughout our great nation. Daily, these selfless men and women place their lives on the line, confronting great risk and challenges in their service to our communities and our fellow citizens, which is why it is so befitting for us to consider the measure at hand, House Resolution 47, supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Over the course of 2008, our country lost nearly 180 law enforcement officers in the line of duty. In remembrance of these fallen heroes, today we in the House of Representatives take a moment to express our gratitude for the service of these courageous Americans by considering House Resolution 47.

By supporting the goals and ideals of Peace Officers Memorial Day, we are sending a strong message to our country's law enforcement community and their families that we recognize the sacrifices they have made in the name of safety and security for all of our cities, townships and localities.

I would like to specifically mention and thank those officers that serve throughout Bristol, Suffolk, Plymouth and Norfolk Counties in my own congressional district for their great work.

Commemorating Peace Officers Memorial Day dates back to 1962, when then President Kennedy signed Public Law 87-726 designating May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. Since that time, Congress has routinely expressed our support for the goals and ideals of this worthy cause.